

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 19608

E.O. 11652 GDS
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SUBJECT: OFFICIAL INFORMAL

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FOR GARRISON FROM MATLOCK

1. AT CONCLUSION OF GRAIN AGREEMENT REVIEW SESSION AT MFT
DECEMBER 15, BELL WAS INVITED TO PAY CALL ON FIRST DEPUTY OF
FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER MIKHAIL KUZMIN. WITH KUZMIN WRE DEPUTY
MINISTER GORDEYEV AND SAKHUM. ACCOMPANYING BELL WERE SKOUG
AND TRICK. DISCUSSION WAS ALMOST ENTIRELY NON-SUBSTANTIVE,
EXCEPT THAT KUZMIN REFERRED TO PROBLEMS CAUSED BY AMERICAN SIDE
ON MARITIME AGREEMENT. HE ASSERTED THAT WE COULD NEVER RESIST
THE TEMPTATION TO PURSUE ADDITIONAL PROFITS. KUZMIN WENT ON TO
CRITICIZE US POSITION ON MFN AND EXIM FINANCING AND CITING
BREZHNEV SPEECH TO TRADE COUNCIL, TO REITERATE THAT USSR WOULD
NEVER ACCEPT INTERFERENCE IN ITS AFFAIRS, ETC. BELL DID NOT
RESPOND EXCEPT TO SAY HE FAVORED MFN AND EXIM FINANCING, TOO.
AFTER MEETING SKOUG TOOK GORDEYEV ASIDE TO SAY THAT MFT HAD
POSSIBLY NOT BEEN FULLY BRIEFED ON ISSUES ON MARITIME AGREEMENT
DISPUTE, WHICH WAS A SERIOUS MATTER. SKOUG EXPLAINED THAT BOTH
SIDES SHOULD DERIVE BENEFITS FROM AGREEMENTS, WE PRINCIPALLY
FROM CARRYING ONE-THIRD OF TONNAGE AT AGREED RATES AND THEY FROM
ACCESS TO U.S. PORTS, WHICH HAD ALREADY EARNED USSR \$800 MILLION.
HE ASKED THAT THIS BE CONVEYED TO KUZMIN AND OFFERED TO BRIEF HIM
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PERSONALLY, IF THAT WERE DESIRED. GORDEYEV LISTENED CAREFULLY
AND RESPONDED THAT MINISTRY OF MARITIME FLEET HAD BRIEFED MFT.
BRIEFING ARGUED THAT ADEQUATE TONNAGE HAD BEEN OFFERED TO U.S.
SIDE BUT NOT ACCEPTED. ALTHOUGH MFT DID NOT HAVE ACTIVE RESPONS-
IBILITY FOR THIS ISSUE, HE SAID, HE WAS GLAD TO HAVE OUR VIEWS AND
WOULD INFORM KUZMIN.

2. RE MOSCOW 19008, PARA 3 ON LIT GAZ EDITOR CHAKOVSKIY:
HOPKINS AND OBOLENSKY DID, OF COURSE, EVENTUALLY RECEIVE THEIR
VISAS BUT ONLY AFTER A LOT F BACK AND FORTH WITH THE SOVIET
EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTN AND BONN AND THE MFA IN MOSCOW.

3. OUR CAREFULLY CONSIDERED RECOMMENDATION ON CHAKOVSKIY'S
VISA IS TO AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE FOR TEN DAYS AS REQUESTED BUT TO
HAND IT OVER TO THE MFA ON JANUARY 23 (I.E., FIVE DAYS AFTER
ETD REQUESTED). THIS, IN FACT, IS HOW OBOLENSKY'S VISA WAS
HANDLED IN WASHINGTON. IN HOPKINS' CASE, AS VISA APPLIATION WAS
SUBMITTED TO SOVIET EMBASSY BONN ON OCTOBER 29, WITH ETD SPECIFIED
AS NOVEBER 7. PRESUMABLY THIS RAN UP AGAINST THE SOVIET
HOLIDAY PROSCRIPTION BUT NO MOVEMENT WAS MADE UNTIL HOPKINS
REAPPLIED ON NOVEMBER 22, WITH VISA REPORTEDLY AUTHORIZED
ABOUT NOVEMBER 30.

4. AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF THE RECIPROCATION IS TO KEEP THE
SOVIET SIDE IN THE DARK,AS THEY DID OUR SIDE, UNTIL THE DAY WE
HAND OVER THE VISA. THUS, WE WOULD STONEWALL ANY SOVIET INQUIRIES
UP UNTIL THAT DAY.
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